

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 20 has been amended.

Claim 21, which depends on claim 20, has also been amended accordingly.

Claim 22 has been cancelled.

Claims 23 and 24 are allowable as advised by the Examiner.

Summary of the interview with the Examiner

Applicants, through their attorney Yunling Ren, interviewed with Examiner Yong Pak on March 23, 2004 at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. At the interview, claims 20 and 21 were discussed in connection with the prior art reference Teather et al. Applicants pointed out to the Examiner that although Teather et al. teach a number of truncated glucanase, none of them has an enhanced glucanase activity when compared with a full length glucanase absent the signal peptide, and, in fact, all the truncations in Teather et al. exhibited reduced enzyme activities. Applicants also pointed out that the present invention can be distinguished from Teather et al. not only structurally, i.e., the lengths in the present invention differ from those made by Teather et al., but also functionally, i.e., the truncated enzymes of the present invention exhibit thermal stability and higher enzymatic activities as much as four times of the full length enzyme.

Amendments to claims 20-21 were discussed. The Examiner agreed that claims 20-21 would be allowable if applicants amend claims 20-21 to specifically indicate that the enhanced enzymatic activity of the claimed sequence is to be compared with the full length wild type glucanase absent the signal peptide, and to include the upper and lower limits of the claimed truncations.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Teather et al. in the Office Action dated January 13, 2004. This rejection was made prior to the interview with the Examiner. The Examiner's rejection was fully addressed in the interview and applicants were advised that the rejection can be overcome by amending the claims to include the limitations discussed above. Accordingly, applicants amended claims as shown above.

It is respectfully submitted that amended claims 20-21 are now in allowable condition.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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